

What is claimed:

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- 1 1. A data processing apparatus having a user interface assisting in searching for  
2 information from an ordered list in a data array, the apparatus comprising:  
3 an array scroller responsive to user actuation; and  
4 a helper character-generator, actuated by continued user actuation of the array  
5 scroller, the helper character generator being operative to display a helper character  
6 representative of a portion in the list being scrolled.
- 1 2. The data processing apparatus of claim 1 wherein,  
2 the helper character shows additional helper characters by unactuating the array  
3 scroller, then reactuating the array scroller.
- 1 3. The computing apparatus of claim 1 wherein,  
2 the helper character display corresponds to a location on a GUI display.
- 1 4. The apparatus of claim 1, comprising at least one of the following: a handheld  
2 device, a mobile telephone, an Internet-enable device with a browser.
- 1 5. The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the item is selected from at least one of the  
2 following: alpha-numerical characters, pictographs, letters in a name, prefixes in telephone  
3 numbers.
- 1 6. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the list is multi-dimensional.
- 1 7. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the helper character-generator renders a helper  
2 character comprising at least one of the following: audio feedback, video feedback, tactile  
3 feedback.
- 1 8. In a data processing environment, a method for enabling a user to scroll through an  
2 ordered list in a data array accessible through a data processing device, the method  
3 comprising:

4 enabling the user to scroll through the list, in response to the user actuating the data  
5 processing device; and  
6 generating a helper character representative of a portion of the list being scrolled; .

1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the data processing environment comprises a  
2 distributed environment.

1 10. Software for being installed on an information processing apparatus, wherein  
2 the software renders the apparatus operative to display a helper character representative of a  
3 portion of an ordered list currently being scrolled in response to a user interacting with the  
4 apparatus.

1 11. A service supplied in a client-server configuration, wherein:  
2 the server provides user-access to an ordered list of information items; and  
3 the client is enabled to interact with the server, the server controlling the client to  
4 display a helper character representative of a portion of the list currently being scrolled at the  
5 client.

1 12. The network service of claim 11,  
2 wherein, the client comprises at least one of the following: a handheld device, a  
3 desktop computer, a laptop computer, a wireless telephone handset, a portable media-  
4 playing device, cell phone.

1 13. An information storage medium comprising:  
2 an ordered list of content information items;  
3 at least one respective helper character corresponding with a respective one of the  
4 items; and  
5 control software for controlling a rendering of a specific one of the helper characters  
6 during the scrolling of the corresponding one of the items

1 14. The information storage medium of claim 14 wherein the ordered list comprises at  
2 least one of the following: a sequence of alpha-numeric characters, a sequence of  
3 pictographs, a sequence of images, a sequence of sounds.

1 15. The information storage medium of claim 14 wherein the rendering of a specific one  
2 of the helper characters comprises at least one of the following: audio feedback, video  
3 feedback, tactile feedback.

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